

Amendments from the Department of Transitional Assistance: 18, 36, 228, 279, 538, 708, 747, 817, 939, 1008, 1118, 1153, 1173, 1232, 1239, 1240, 1347, 1482

Amendments from Social Services: 175, 181, 191, 203, 235, 281, 338, 348, 367, 386, 465, 518, 521, 539, 568, 641, 649, 651, 655, 679, 686, 711, 841, 909, 949, 961, 985, 1005, 1011, 1032, 1300, 1320, 1343, 1344, 1368, 1375, 1382, 1433, 1434, 1457

Mr. Deleo of Winthrop and others hereby move to amend H. 4000 in section 2, in item 4400-1000, by inserting at the end thereof the following:—

“and provided further, that not less than \$900,000 shall be expended for the operation of the homeless management information system; provided, that during fiscal year 2008 the department shall submit quarterly to the house and senate committees on ways and means a status report detailing the specific implementation of the system, the number of shelters participating by month, the types and descriptions of information reports able to be generated, and any other information that the department determines to be necessary in evaluating the full and complete implementation of the system; and provided further, that the report shall also detail all expenditures by subject classification”

And move to further amend said item 4400-1000 by striking the figure “\$67,034,698” and inserting in place thereof the following figure:— “67,934,698”.

And move further to amend the bill in section 2, by striking out line item 4403-2000 and inserting in place thereof the following:-

4403-2000 For a program of transitional aid to families with dependent children; provided, that notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, benefits under the program of transitional aid to families with dependent children shall be paid only to citizens of the United States and to non-citizens for whom federal funds may be used to provide benefits; provided further, that notwithstanding any general or special law, or any provisions of this act to the contrary, no benefits under this item shall be made available to illegal or undocumented aliens; provided further, that the need standard shall be equal to the standard in effect in fiscal year 2007; provided further, that the payment standard shall be equal to the need standard; provided further, that the payment standard for families who do not qualify for an exempt category of assistance under the provisions of subsection (e) of section 110 of chapter 5 of the acts of 1995, or any successor statute, shall be 2 ¾ per cent below the otherwise applicable payment standard, in fiscal

year 2008, pursuant to the state plan required under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996; provided further, that the department shall notify all teen parents receiving benefits from the program of the requirements found in clause (2) of subsection (i) of said section 110 of said chapter 5, or any successor statute; provided further, that a \$40 per month rent allowance shall be paid to all households incurring a rent or mortgage expense and not residing in public housing or subsidized housing; provided further, that a nonrecurring children's clothing allowance in the amount of \$150 shall be provided to each child eligible under this program in September 2007; provided further, that the children's clothing allowance shall be included in the standard of need for the month of September 2007; provided further, that benefits under this program shall not be available to those families where a child has been removed from the household pursuant to a court order after a care and protection hearing under chapter 119 of the General Laws, nor to adult recipients otherwise eligible for transitional aid to families with dependent children but for the temporary removal of the dependent child or children from the home by the department of social services in accordance with department procedures; provided further, that notwithstanding section 2 of chapter 118 of the General Laws, or any other general or special law to the contrary, the department shall render aid to pregnant women with no other eligible dependent children only if it has been medically verified that the child is expected to be born within the month such payments are to be made or within the 3 month period after such month of payment, and who, if such child had been born and was living with her in the month of payment would be categorically and financially eligible for transitional aid to families with dependent children benefits; provided further, that certain families that suffer a reduction in benefits due to a loss of earned income and participation in retrospective budgeting may receive a supplemental benefit to compensate them for such loss; provided further, that no funds from this item shall be expended by the department for child care or transportation services for the employment and training program; provided further, that no funds from this item shall be expended by the department for family reunification benefits or informal child care; provided further, that the department shall provide oral and written notification to all recipients of their child care benefits on a semi-annual basis; provided further, that the notification shall include the full range of child care options available, including center-based child care, family-based

child care, and in-home relative child care; provided further, that the notification shall detail available child care benefits for current and former recipients, including employment and training benefits, transitional benefits and post-transitional benefits; provided further, that the department shall work with the department of early education and care to ensure that both recipients currently receiving benefits and former recipients during the 1 year period after termination of benefits are provided written and verbal information about child care services; provided further, that the notice shall further advise recipients of the availability of food stamps benefits; provided further, that in promulgating, amending or rescinding its regulations with respect to eligibility for, or levels of benefits under the program, the department shall take into account the amounts available to it for expenditure by this item so as not to exceed the appropriation; provided further, that notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, 60 days before promulgating any eligibility or benefit changes, the commissioner shall file with the house and senate committees on ways and means and with the clerks of the senate and house of representatives a detailed and comprehensive report setting forth the text of, basis, and reasons for such proposed changes; and provided further, that the report shall state the department's most accurate assessment of the probable effects of any such benefit or eligibility changes upon recipient families; provided further, that not less than \$418,074 shall be expended for the purposes of the operation of the Transportation Assistance program operated by Traveler's Aid Family Services; and provided further, that not less than \$150,000 shall be expended for the Lift Transportation program operated by Traveler's Aid Family Services.....\$274,470,212

And move further to amend the bill in section 2, by striking out line item 4403-2120 and inserting in place thereof the following:-

4403-2120 For certain expenses of the emergency assistance program as follows: (i) contracted family shelters; (ii) transitional housing programs; (iii) programs to reduce homelessness in Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket counties; (iv) residential education centers for single mothers with children; (v) intake centers; and (vi) voucher shelters; provided, that eligibility shall be limited to families with income at or below 130 per cent of the federal poverty level; provided, however, that any family whose income exceeds 130 per cent of the federal poverty level while the family is receiving assistance funded by this item shall not become ineligible for assistance due to exceeding the income limit for a period of 6 months from the date that the 130 per cent level was exceeded; provided further, that the department shall establish reasonable

requirements for such families to escrow some or all of the portion of their income which exceeds 130 per cent of the federal poverty level; provided further, that any such escrowed funds shall be exempt from otherwise applicable asset limits; provided further that the family shall be allowed to withdraw the amount placed in escrow upon transition to permanent housing or losing eligibility for shelter services; provided further, that benefits under this item shall be provided only to residents who are citizens of the United States or aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence or otherwise permanently residing under color of law in the United States; provided further, that the department shall take all steps necessary to enforce regulations to prevent abuse in the emergency assistance program; provided further, that no emergency assistance expenditures shall be paid from this item unless explicitly authorized; provided further, that eligible households shall be placed in shelters as close as possible to their home community unless a household requests otherwise; provided further, that if the closest available placement is not within 20 miles of the household's home community, the household shall be transferred to an appropriate shelter within 20 miles of its home community at the earliest possible date unless the household requests otherwise; provided further, that eligibility for shelter by an otherwise eligible family shall not be impaired by prior receipt of any non-shelter benefit; provided further, that the department shall make every effort to ensure that children receiving services from this item shall continue attending school in the community in which they lived prior to receiving services funded from this item; provided, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended for education, advocacy and case management services by Casa Latina, located in the City of Northampton; provided further, that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended for a contract with the St. Francis Samaritan House in Taunton; provided further, that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended for Playspace programs operated by Horizons for Homeless Children in family shelters; and provided further, that not less than \$200,000 shall be expended for Our Fathers House in Fitchburg; provided further, that not less than \$50,000 shall be expended for the Weymouth Youth and Family Services Teen Center to provide for advocacy, social service programs and to promote growth and social welfare; provided further, that notwithstanding any other general or special law to the contrary, the department shall immediately provide shelter for up to 30 days to families who appear to be eligible for such shelter based on statements provided by the family and any other information in the possession of the department but who need additional time to obtain any third-party verifications reasonably required by the department; provided further, that shelter benefits received under the preceding proviso shall not render a family ineligible under any regulation providing that a family who previously received shelter is ineligible for shelter benefits for a period of 12 months; provided further, that families receiving such shelter benefits who are found not to be eligible for continuing shelter benefits shall be eligible for aid pending a timely appeal pursuant to section 16 of chapter 18 of the General Laws; provided further, that the department shall not impose unreasonable requirements for third-party verification and shall accept verifications from the family whenever reasonable; provided further, that in promulgating, amending or rescinding regulations with respect to eligibility or benefits under this program,

the department shall take into account the amounts available to it for expenditure in this item so as not to exceed the amount appropriated in this item; provided further, that notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, 60 days before promulgating any such eligibility or benefit changes, the commissioner shall file with the house and senate committees on ways and means and with the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate a determination by the secretary of health and human services that available appropriations for the program will be insufficient to meet projected expenses and a report setting forth such proposed changes; provided further, that all of this item shall be subject to appropriation and, in the event of a deficiency, nothing in this item shall give rise to or shall be construed as giving rise to any enforceable right or entitlement to services in excess of the amounts appropriated by this item; provided further, that nothing in the preceding proviso shall authorize the department to alter eligibility criteria or benefit levels except to the extent that such changes are needed to avoid a deficiency in this item; provided further, that the department shall report quarterly to the house and senate committees on ways and means an unduplicated count of families who apply for emergency assistance funded family shelter during the fiscal year; provided further, that the report shall include the total number of applications received, the number of families approved for shelter, the number of families denied shelter along with reasons for denials, the number of families who are approved for shelter benefits within 12 months of an initial denial, the home community of families receiving shelter, the number of families receiving shelter within each home community, the number of available shelter slots within each home community, the income level of families receiving shelter who had previously accessed state-funded programs to reduce homelessness and the programs that had been accessed, the composition of families receiving shelter, the reason that the household is seeking emergency family shelter, the reasons that families exit shelters by type of reason, including reasons for voluntary departure and termination, exiting families' housing plans by type of plan, including type of housing arrangements, subsidy status, monthly rent, and gross monthly income, and any other information that the department determines to be necessary in evaluating the operation of the emergency assistance family shelters program; provided further, that the report shall also include information, by type of shelter, on average length of stay, average cost per household served, average number of shelter slots not used either as the result of no placement being made or of a placed family not making use of shelter, and an analysis of this information, including an analysis of causes relating to any significant differences in the data for each type of shelter; and provided further, that the report shall also include a status report on the outcomes of department-funded homelessness prevention initiatives or pilot programs, providing information on the nature and total cost of each such initiative, the number of families served by each such initiative, the average cost per family of each such initiative, the affordability and stability of housing or alternative shelter placements for prevention program recipients, including type of housing arrangement, subsidy status, monthly rent, and gross monthly income, and any other information that the department determines to be necessary in evaluating the operation of state-funded

homeless prevention programs; and provided further, that not less than \$179,381 shall be obligated for the Crossroads Family Shelter in East Boston\$83,000,651

And moves to further amend the bill in section 2, by striking out item 4800-0015 and inserting in place thereof the following:-

4800-0015 For central and area office administration; provided, that the associated expenses of employees whose AA object class costs are paid from item 4800-1100 shall be paid from this item; provided further, that no funds shall be expended from this item for the compensation of unit 8 employees; provided further, that the department shall not place a child or adolescent referred by, or discharged from, the care of the department of mental health until the latter department forwards an assessment and recommendation as to whether the child or adolescent may be appropriately placed in foster care or, if due to severe emotional disturbance, is more appropriate for group care; provided further, that the department, in consultation with the department of mental health, shall establish guidelines to assist the latter department in making such assessments and recommendations; provided further, that, unless otherwise authorized, all funds, including federal reimbursements received by the department shall be credited to the General Fund; provided further, that the Commissioner may transfer between items 4800-0015, 4800-0016, 480025, 4800-0036, 4800-0038, 4800-0041, 4800-0091, 4800-0151, 4800-1100 and 4800-1400; provided further, that any transfer authorized pursuant to this item shall not exceed 5 percent of the total amount appropriated for that item; provided further, that 30 days prior to any such transfer, the commissioner shall submit an allocation plan detailing the distribution of the funds to be transferred to the house and senate committees on ways and means; provided further, that not less than \$500,000 shall be available for expert medical and mental health evaluations for certain children in DSS care and protection, said Department shall report quarterly to the Joint Committees on Mental Health and Substance Abuse; Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities; and Ways and Means on the number of children referred for said evaluations; and provided further, that the commissioner shall not transfer any funds prior to May 15, 2008.....\$78,958,785

And move to further amend the bill in section 2, by striking item 4800-0038 and inserting in place thereof the following:-

4800-0038 For stabilization, unification, reunification, permanency, adoption, guardianship and foster care services provided by the department of social services; provided, that services funded through this item shall include shelter services, substance abuse treatment, family reunification networks, young parent programs, parent aides, education and counseling services, family preservation services, foster care, adoption and guardianship subsidies, tiered reimbursements used to promote the foster care placement of children with special medical and social needs, assessment of the appropriateness of adoption for children in the care of the department for more than 12 months, protective services provided by partnership agencies, targeted recruitment and retention of foster families, respite care services, post-adoption services, support services for foster, kinship and adoptive families and juvenile firesetter programs; provided further, that any child who would have been eligible for a clothing benefit under regulations in place on January 1, 2006, shall receive a clothing benefit in fiscal year 2008; provided further, that not later than February 15 of the current fiscal year, the department shall provide to the house and senate committees on ways and means a recommendation on whether or not to discontinue any program, including earmarked programs, the cost of which, per unit of service or service outcomes, do not fall within a reasonable standard; provided further, that the department shall submit to the chairs of the joint committee on children and families and the chairs of the house and senate committees on ways and means a report detailing the progress of the Family Networks System of care not later than August 17, 2007 and shall report quarterly to the committees on the status of the Family Networks System; provided further, that the report shall contain information on the number of children served, their ages, the number of children served in each service plan, the number of children in out-of-home placements and the number of placements each child has had before receiving an out-of-home placement; provided further, that the report shall also contain the number of families receiving multiple 51As within a 10-month period, the number of cases reopened within 6 months of being closed, and the number of children who return home and then re-enter an out-of-home placement within 6 months; provided further, that not less than \$2,300,000 shall be expended for the Young Parent Support Program; provided further, that not less than \$150,000 shall be expended in region 1 for a community-based family unification counseling program to prevent juvenile

delinquency and provided further, that not less than \$500,000 shall be expended on the recruitment and retention of foster parents; provided further, that not less than \$348,850 shall be expended for Latinas y Ninos and Casa Esperanza; provided further that not less than \$257,000 shall be expended for a contract with the Labouré Center in the South Boston section of Boston for an Integrated Family Service team in Region 6.; provided further that not less than \$150,000 shall be expended for the Julie's Family Learning Center in South Boston, a section of Boston; provided further, that not less than \$60,000 shall be expended by the Framingham office of the Department of Social Services for the Metrowest Campership program operated by the Ashland youth advisory board in partnership with said department; and provided further, that not less than \$187,500 shall be expended on the Center for Family Connections in Cambridge to provide therapeutic and rehabilitative mental health services, targeted research on well-being outcomes, and permanency planning for older hard-to-place youth and those aging out of the foster care system; provided further, that not less than \$125,000 shall be expended for a family re-unification program operated by Aid to Incarcerated Mothers to maintain strong parent-child relationships during a mother's incarceration; provided further, that not less than \$140,000 shall be expended for the Comprehensive School Age Parenting Program, Inc. for maintaining and expanding its year-round school based programs in Boston high schools, middle schools, pilot schools and small schools education complexes for pregnant teens, young mothers and fathers and other youth at high risk for school drop out; provided further, that not less than \$130,000 shall be expended for the Children's Cove Cape and Islands Child Advocacy Center; provided further, that not less than \$45,000 shall be expended for a contract with Big Brothers and Sisters of Cape Cod and the Islands; provided further, that \$50,000 shall be expended for youth services at the youth center in Uxbridge; provided further, that no less than \$290,000 be allocated for alternative schools for students aged 14-16 inclusive who are placed before the court on Children in need of services petitions (CHINS); provided further, that not less than \$300,000 shall be expended for a statewide contract with Northeastern University for violence prevention and conflict resolution program; provided further, that not less than \$50,000 shall be expended for the purpose of providing case management services for the Amity Transitional Housing Program in the city of Lynn; provided further, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended for the Concilio Hispano in

Somerville; provided further, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended for Centro Presente of Cambridge; provided further, that not less than \$20,000 shall be expended for the Massachusetts Association of Portuguese Speakers of Cambridge; provided further, that not less than \$20,000 shall be expended for the Haitian Coalition of Somerville; Provided further that not less than \$250,000 shall be expended for the operation of a juvenile firesetters program to be operated by the Massachusetts Coalition for Juvenile Firesetters Intervention Programs; provided further, that not less than \$50,000 shall be expended for Family Service, Inc. of Lawrence; provided further, that not less than \$104,123 shall be expended for the Teen Parenting program in Framingham; provided further, that not less than \$200,000 shall be expended to support the family center component of the Greater Lowell Family Resource Center; provided further, that not less than \$300,000 shall be expended for Summerhill House in Norwood; and provided further, that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended for the Families Untied for Teens' Health

\$289,722,322

And move to further amend the bill in section 2, by striking item 4800-1400 and inserting in place thereof the following item:-

4800-1400 For shelters and support services for people at risk of domestic violence; provided, that the department shall pursue the establishment of public-private partnership agreements established for family stabilization services funded from sources other than the commonwealth; provided further, that services shall include supervised visitation programs, certified batterer intervention programs for indigent batterers and their families, and scattered site transitional housing programs, including programs to assist victims of domestic violence in finding and maintaining permanent housing; provided further, that participants in battered women's programs shall be provided with information regarding local transitional housing resources; provided further, that funding shall be made available to enhance counseling services for children who have witnessed domestic violence; provided further, that funding shall be made available for emergency shelters for substance abusing battered women; provided further, that funding shall be made available for a statewide domestic violence hotline; provided further, that the department shall continue to provide any match funding required by federal program regulations; provided further, that domestic violence prevention specialists shall be funded from this item; provided further, that not less

than \$15,000 shall be expended for the Words not Weapons mentoring project in Saugus; provided further that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended for a domestic violence prevention program called ‘Teens-At-Risk’, operated by Portal To Hope for the communities of Everett, Lynn, Malden and Medford without the need of approval by the commissioner of public health; provided further, that not less than \$100,000 shall be expended for a contract with Sylvia’s Haven at Devens to provide transitional housing to pregnant and parenting women and girls; and provided further, that not less than \$ 10,000 shall be expended for a grant to the City of Melrose for the Melrose Alliance against Violence\$21,280,021